

Summary

Contents



What's New

What's New

Highlights news, reviews and developments.

Labour Market Summary

An overview of key labour market indicators: changes and time series graphs.

Current Activities

What's happening in the Labour Statistics program?

Recent Developments

State level aggregate hours worked; Conferences, workshops and events; Work-Related Injuries

Recent Releases

What has been released recently? What will be released in the next three months?

Articles and Analysis

Articles and Analysis

This issue: What is labour underutilisation? What happens to key labour measures over the economic cycle?

Find Out More

Want to find out more about ABS labour statistics? [Contacts](#), [training courses](#) and [ABS labour statistics publications](#).

Data Sources for Tables

How to find the data for discontinued tables from *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0).

Labour Market Summary

LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY

KEY MEASURES

Measure			Series type	Period	Current figure	% change from	
						Previous qtr(a)	Previous year(b)
Employed							
	Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 10	11 390.1	0.9	3.3
	Full-time	'000	Trend	Nov 10	8 012.2	1.0	3.9
	Part-time	'000	Trend	Nov 10	3 377.9	0.7	2.1
	Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment	%	Trend	Nov 10	29.7	(c)-0.1	(c)-0.4
Employment to population ratio							
	Persons	%	Trend	Nov 10	62.5	(c)0.3	(c)0.8
	Males	%	Trend	Nov 10	69.2	(c)0.4	(c)1.0
	Females	%	Trend	Nov 10	55.9	(c)0.3	(c)0.5
Unemployed							
	Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 10	632.7	2.0	-3.2
	Looking for full-time work	'000	Trend	Nov 10	442.3	1.2	-8.7
	Looking for part-time work	'000	Trend	Nov 10	190.4	3.8	12.2
Unemployment rate							
	Persons	%	Trend	Nov 10	5.3	(c)0.1	(c)-0.3
Long-term unemployment							
	Persons	'000	Trend	Nov 10	124.0	5.9	15.6
	As a proportion of total unemployment	%	Trend	Nov 10	19.6	(c)0.7	(c)3.2
	Long-term unemployment rate	%	Trend	Nov 10	1.0	(c)0.1	(c)0.1
Quarterly labour underutilisation rates							
	Underemployment rate	%	Trend	Nov 10	7.2	(c)0.0	(c)-0.6
	Labour force underutilisation rate	%	Trend	Nov 10	12.4	(c)0.0	(c)-1.0
	Children living without an employed parent(d)	%	Original	Jun 09	15.1	na	(c)2.6
Labour force participation rate							
	Persons aged 15-64 years	%	Trend	Nov 10	76.9	(c)0.4	(c)0.7
	Total	%	Trend	Nov 10	65.9	(c)0.4	(c)0.6
Aggregate monthly hours worked							
	Persons	mill. hours	Trend	Nov 10	1 601.9	0.6	3.5
Actual hours worked							
	Average weekly hours - Persons	hours	Original	Nov 10	33.8	-0.5	-0.4
	Average weekly hours - Full-time	hours	Original	Nov 10	40.9	-0.7	-0.7
	Average weekly hours - Part-time	hours	Original	Nov 10	16.7	-1.7	-0.3
Part-time workers							
	Proportion who preferred to work more hours	%	Original	Nov 10	25.4	(c)0.6	(c)-1.7
Wage price index							
	Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses	index no.	Trend	Sep qtr 2010	105.5	1.0	3.6

Average weekly earnings							
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	Trend	Aug 10	1 259.4	0.6	4.4	
All employees total earnings	\$	Trend	Aug 10	982.9	0.6	4.7	
Industrial disputes							
Working days lost	'000	Original	Sep qtr 2010	46.6	94.3	60.4	
Working days lost per 1,000 employees number		Original	Sep qtr 2010	4.7	95.4	53.1	
Job vacancies(e)							
Australia	'000	Original	Aug 10	181.4	10.2	na	

na not available

(a) Same period previous quarter (monthly data is presented for the middle month of each quarter).

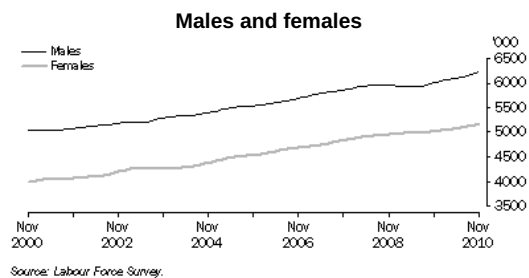
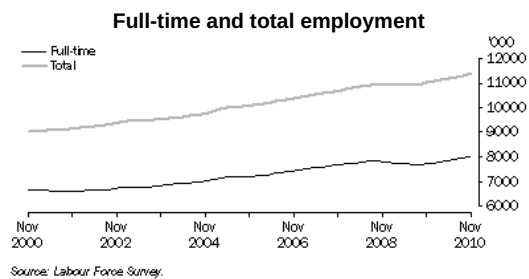
(b) Same period previous year.

(c) Change is in percentage points.

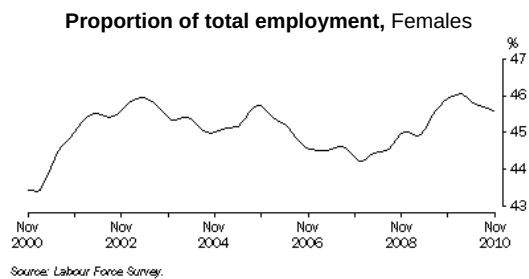
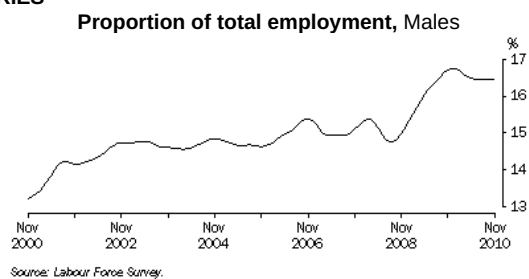
(d) As a proportion of all children aged under 15 years.

(e) As a result of the Job Vacancy Survey being suspended, no original estimates were produced for five quarters between August 2008 and August 2009 inclusive.

EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

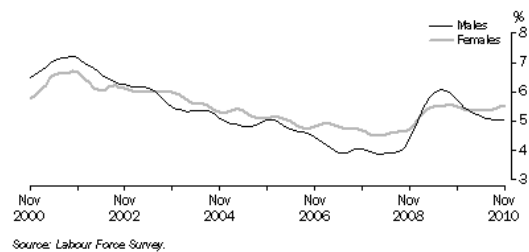


PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES

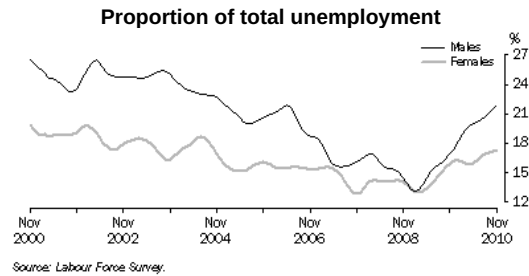


UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: TREND SERIES

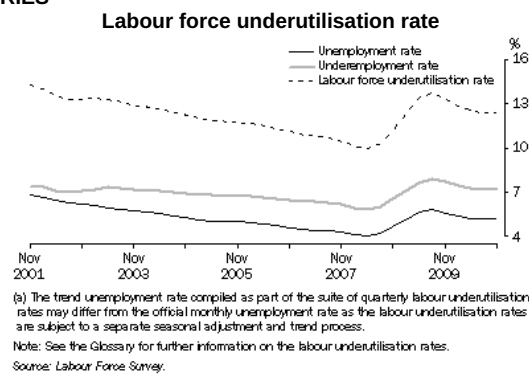
Males and females



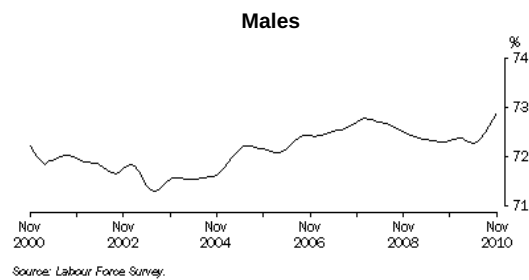
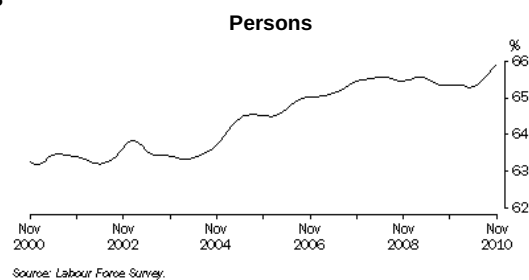
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT: TREND SERIES



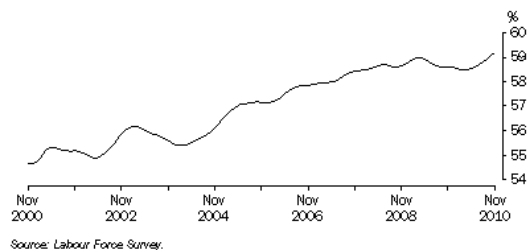
UNDERUTILISED LABOUR: TREND SERIES



PARTICIPATION RATE: TREND SERIES



Females



About this Release

This publication provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series.

It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

The electronic product takes advantage of website capabilities and differs marginally from the printed version.

Expanded Contents

CONTENTS

- What's New
- Current Activities
 - Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour
 - Review of the Labour Household Survey Program
- Recent Developments
 - New Series: Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory
 - Work-Related Injuries
 - Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events
- Recent and Upcoming Releases
- Articles and Analysis
 - Article archive
 - Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment
 - Measures of labour underutilisation
 - Feature Article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns
- Find Out More
 - Contact us
 - About the ABS labour statistics program
 - Introduction to Labour Statistics training course
 - Related publications
 - Data sources for tables

What's New

[Contents >> What's New](#)



WHAT'S NEW?

Welcome to the latest edition of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0), a publication designed to help you stay informed about key labour market measures and the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program. Each edition contains a summary of key labour market measures with both the latest key figures and a range of time series graphs.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

This issue focuses on **labour underutilisation**, which includes unemployment, underemployment and people marginally attached to the labour force who could be considered part of the potential labour supply (including discouraged jobseekers). The fact sheets explain the main features of labour underutilisation and the measures produced, and the feature article examines the impact of economic downturns on labour underutilisation and other key labour force measures.

- Fact sheet: Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment explains what labour underutilisation is;
- Fact sheet: Measures of labour underutilisation describes the ABS suite of measures for labour underutilisation; and

- Feature article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns uses a full range of labour force measures to form a comprehensive picture of the labour market, particularly during times of economic decline - noting how some of these measures are influenced by changes in the underlying civilian population.

This issue also includes information on Recent developments in ABS labour market statistics and updates on Current Activities, including:

- review of the labour household survey program; and
- review of Topics @ a glance - Labour.

See the [Recent developments](#), [Current Activities](#) and Find Out More pages for more details on these developments.

Changes to Australian Labour Market Statistics: where have the tables gone?

As announced in the October issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0), changes are being made from this issue on. Earlier editions of this publication contained tables which drew together a range of labour statistics from a number of ABS sources and some international comparisons from the International Labour Organisation. These tables reproduced information that is freely available from the original sources. To ensure that users have access to the most up to date sources of data and information, this publication will no longer contain data that can be found elsewhere.

[Labour Statistics Data Sources](#) contains more information on how to access ABS labour market statistics, and links to original sources for the discontinued tables from Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).

Some information provided in earlier editions was unique to this publication and is still available. The datacubes:

- Extended labour force underutilisation rate;
- Volume measures of labour underutilisation; and
- Employment type time series

will continue to be released annually.

In addition, four new datacubes will be published each quarter containing information on:

- All families: family type by labour force status;
- Employed persons: actual hours worked in all jobs;
- Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job; and
- Underemployed: industry and occupation.

Each of these datacubes is available free of charge from the ABS website <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> under the Downloads tab for this publication.

Feedback and comments

If you have any questions about aspects of the labour statistics program, you can contact us on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

The Find out more page contains further information and contact details.

[Back to top >](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Current Activities

[Contents >> Current Activities](#)



Current Activities

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is undertaking a number of reviews, developments and analytical projects to improve the relevance and reliability of labour market statistics and promote the effective use of these statistics. Current Activities provides an overview of this work including contacts for further information.

This section contains the following subsection :

- Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour
- Review of the Labour Household Survey Program

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour

[Contents >> Current Activities >> Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour](#)

Review of Topics @ a Glance - Labour

There have been a number of changes to this edition of **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0) including the discontinuation of a number of tables. These changes stem from a recent review conducted into the way the ABS communicates information about labour statistics to different users. The communication review considered the purpose, structure and content of vehicles such as this publication, **Australian Labour Market Statistics** (cat. no. 6105.0), **Labour Statistics News** (cat. no. 6106.0), and **Topics @ a Glance - Labour**.

In early 2011, a number of changes are planned for the **Topics @ a Glance - Labour** pages on the ABS website. These pages provide a guide to the full range of ABS statistics on the labour market, as well as links to the latest data releases. To find Topics @ a Glance, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Topics @ a Glance - People - Labour].

If you would like further information about the upcoming changes to **Topics @ a Glance - Labour** please contact Joanne Baker on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Review of the Labour Household Survey Program

[Contents >> Current Activities >> Review of the Labour Household Survey Program](#)

Review of the Labour Household Survey Program

It has been many years since a holistic review of the ABS labour household survey program was undertaken. Over recent years there have been many changes to the structure of the labour market and the nature of work. Many of the labour surveys have origins in the late 1970s and 1980s, and as a result they may, to some extent, reflect an outdated view of work and the labour market, and the interest therein. Adhoc and survey-specific reviews have been conducted from time to time to maintain the relevance of the program, but it is timely for a holistic review to be undertaken to ensure ABS labour statistics continue to deliver high quality, coherent, conceptually robust and relevant statistics into the future.

This review has recently commenced and is considering a range of issues around relevance, coherence and relative priority of topics and data items. An important element of the review will be seeking feedback from a range of users. This is planned to occur in February and March 2011.

Once the review is complete, information will be provided to users about any changes to the labour household survey program and timing for implementation of these changes.

For more information please contact Michael Gerrity on (02) 6252 5514 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recent Developments

[Contents >> Recent Developments](#)



Recent Developments Impacting Labour Statistics

Within Recent Developments are details of some of the latest analysis undertaken and the release of new statistical products by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These projects improve the range of labour market statistics available and assist users in the effective use of these statistics.

This section contains the following subsection :

- New Series: Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory
- Work-Related Injuries
- Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

New Series: Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory

[Contents >> Recent Developments >> New Series: Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked by State and Territory](#)

New series: aggregate monthly hours worked by state and territory

An article in the November 2010 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) introduced the expansion of the newly developed measures of aggregate monthly hours worked to complement the existing state and territory information on employment and unemployment.

For information on the methodology used to create these estimates see **Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, Australia** (cat. no. 6290.55.001), released on 8 September 2009.

From the January 2011 issue of **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) (to be released on 10 February 2011), the ABS will introduce:

- monthly measures of aggregate monthly hours worked, by state, in seasonally adjusted terms; and

- monthly measures of aggregate monthly hours worked, by state and territories, in trend terms.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Work-Related Injuries

[Contents >> Recent Developments >> Work-Related Injuries](#)

Release of Work-Related Injuries

In December 2010, the ABS released Work-Related Injuries, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6324.0). The Work-Related Injuries topic is included in the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) every four years, beginning with 2005-06. The publication provides information on persons who worked at some time in the previous 12 months and who suffered a work-related injury or illness. These people were asked whether they suffered the injury in their current or previous job; the number of illnesses or injuries suffered; the number of days/shifts absent from work due to the injury/illness; sources of financial assistance; whether they applied for workers' compensation; and, if not, the reason they did not apply for workers' compensation; whether received any OH & S training. Estimates can be cross-classified with labour force characteristics and demographics such as State, sex, relationship in household, marital status, birthplace, occupation and industry.

A confidentialised unit record file from this survey is planned for release in late February 2011. For further information contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events

[Contents >> Recent Developments >> Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events](#)



Recent Conferences, Workshops and Events

Staff from the ABS Labour Statistics Program have recently been involved in a number of conferences, workshops and events, including:

- Australian Labour Market Research Workshop
- Introduction to Labour Statistics training
- The Aftermath of The Crisis Conference
- World Statistics Day
- Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Research Forum 2010 and Research Data Workshop
- NatStats 2010 Conference

21st Australian Labour Market Research Workshop, Glenelg, 13-14 December 2010

The Australian Labour Market Research Workshop (ALMR) was held in Glenelg, South Australia from 13-14 December 2010. This is an annual conference designed to share high quality research on labour economics and labour relations and to promote informed debate among economists about current labour market issues in Australia. The 2010 workshop was sponsored by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and hosted by the National Institute of Labour Studies (NILS), Flinders University.

The ABS presented a paper on *Recent and Upcoming Developments in ABS Labour Statistics*.

For more information please visit the conference website - <http://nils.flinders.edu.au/events.php?eid=1279600797>

Introduction to Labour Statistics training

The ABS has recently conducted the Introduction to Labour Statistics in Adelaide (18 November 2010) and Sydney (2 December 2010). The course is designed for anyone who uses or needs to understand ABS Labour Statistics. The course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data.

On 23 November 2010, the ABS ran a tailored version of this course for economic journalists in Melbourne.

Courses are currently scheduled for delivery in 2011 for most State / Territory capital cities. For more details about this and other statistical training, or to register interest in a course, please refer to the [ABS Training page](#), or contact Michael Gerrity on (02) 6252 5514 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>

The Aftermath of The Crisis Conference, Newcastle, 2-3 December 2010

This conference, incorporating the 12th Path to Full Employment Conference and the 17th National Conference on Unemployment, was held at the University of Newcastle from 2-3 December 2010. This is an annual conference held by The Centre of Full Employment and Equity (known as CoffEE) - an official research centre at the University of Newcastle.

For more information please visit the conference website - <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2010/index.cfm>

[Back to top](#)

World Statistics Day, 20 October 2010

The inaugural World Statistics Day, initiated by the United Nations, was celebrated on 20 October 2010. Celebrations were held around the country, within the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and across the wider statistical community.

The ABS Central Office hosted a seminar with guest speaker Professor Glenn Withers from Universities Australia talking about the importance of statistics for policy making. To celebrate the day Brian Pink, the Australian Statistician released the following key publications:

- A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy
- The Recommendations of NatStats 2010 and the NatStats 2010 DVD
- The Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey final results.

For further information regarding World Statistics Day visit the UNSD website

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Research Forum 2010 and Research Data Workshop, Adelaide, 1 October 2010

The 2nd OHSW Research Forum and the 1st Research Data Workshop were held in Adelaide on 1 October 2010. This forum, organised and coordinated by SafeWork South Australia, is aimed at preventing work-related injury and illness. Participants were from a range of universities, research bodies, Comcare, employers and employee associations, WorkCover and SafeWork SA.

The ABS presented a paper on *Workplace injury, fatality and denominator data available from the ABS*.

[Back to top](#)

NatStats 2010 Conference, Sydney, 15-17 September 2010

The NatStats 2010 Conference was held from 15–17 September 2010, at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The overall theme for NatStats 2010: "Measuring what counts: economic development, well-being and progress in 21st century Australia", explored drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's future development.

The conference was very successful and attracted over 460 delegates, 54 presenters and 14 exhibitors representing both users and providers of data from government, business, the media, and the academic and wider communities.

One of the key outcomes of the Conference was the development of a set of Conference Recommendations – broad, strategic objectives that will assist in setting directions for shaping a future statistical system that will be relevant and responsive to future challenges in Australia. The final Recommendations were formally released on 20 October 2010, to celebrate World Statistics Day. Please visit the NatStats website to view the Conference Recommendations, speaker presentations and photos.

[Back to top](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recent and Upcoming Releases

[Contents >> Recent and Upcoming Releases](#)



RECENT AND UPCOMING RELEASES

Release date/title of publication	Reference period	Catalogue number
December 2010		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)January 2010	1350.0
Australian Social Trends	(a)December 2010	4102.0
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia	2009 - 2010	6248.0.55.002
Industrial Disputes, Australia	September 2010	6321.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia	November 2010	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	November 2010	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly	November 2010	6291.0.55.003
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia	November 2010	6202.0.30.004
Technical Manual: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia	February 2010	6202.0.30.005
Work Related Injuries, Australia	2009 - 2010	6324.0
January 2011		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)February 2010	1350.0
Australian Labour Market Statistics	January 2011	6105.0
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia	May 2010	6306.0
Job Search Experience, Australia	July 2010	6222.0
Job Vacancies, Australia	November 2010	6354.0
Labour Force, Australia	December 2010	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	December 2010	6291.0.55.001
February 2011		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)March 2011	1350.0
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	November 2010	6302.0
Business Indicators, Australia	December 2010	5676.0
Labour Force, Australia	January 2011	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	January 2011	6291.0.55.001
Labour Price Index, Australia	December 2010	6345.0
March 2011		
Australian Economic Indicators	(a)April 2011	1350.0
Australian Social Trends	March 2011	4102.0
Industrial Disputes, Australia	December 2010	6321.0.55.001
Job Vacancies, Australia	February 2011	6354.0
Labour Force, Australia	February 2011	6202.0
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery	February 2011	6291.0.55.001
Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly	February 2011	6291.0.55.003
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	September 2010	6220.0
Underemployed Workers, Australia	September 2010	6265.0
April 2011		

(a) Refers to the issue of the publication, not the reference period.

< Back to top

Previous Page

Next Page

Articles and Analysis

Contents >> Articles and Analysis



ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS

This section contains the following subsection :

- Article archive
- Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment
- Measures of labour underutilisation
- Feature Article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns

Previous Page

Next Page

Article archive

Contents >> Articles and Analysis >> Article archive

Australian labour market statistics article archive: April 2003 - current

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in Australian Labour Market Statistics, promoting the effective use of labour market statistics. Articles are sorted by topic.

Most Recent Articles
 Economic Growth
 Employment Type
 Industrial Disputes
 Migrants
 Occupation
 Trade Union
 Underemployment
 Working Arrangements

Ageing
 Employee Remuneration
 Families
 Job Starters
 Multiple Job Holders
 Pay Setting
 Transitions
 Underutilisation
 Youth

Contractors
 Employment in ICT
 Hours Worked
 Labour Force Participation
 Non-Standard Employment
 Retirement
 Technical Reports
 Unemployment

Most Recent Articles

Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment

Measures of labour underutilisation

Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns

< Back to top >

Ageing

Experimental estimates of the average age at withdrawal from the labour force
 Health, disability, age and labour force participation
 Mature age people and the labour force

January 2005
 April 2005
 October 2004

Contractors

Independent Contractors

July 2009

< Back to top >

Economic Growth

Do job vacancies provide a leading indicator of employment growth?
 Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth
 Population, participation and productivity: contributions to Australia's economic growth

April 2003
 July 2005
 January 2004

Employee Remuneration

Changes to ABS measures of employee remuneration	January 2007
Comparison of ABS measures of employee remuneration	October 2005
Labour Price Index	January 2005
Employment in Information and Communication Technology	
Employment in information and communication technology	October 2006
Employment in information and communication technology	January 2005
Employment in information and communication technology	January 2004
Employment Type	
Changes in types of employment	October 2004
Employment type	July 2008
Employment type	July 2007
Employment type	July 2006
Employment type	October 2005
	< Back to top >
Families	
Children living without an employed parent	July 2004
Jobless Families	January 2009
Maternity leave	July 2008
Parental leave	April 2004
Work and family balance	April 2009
Hours Worked	
Aggregate monthly hours worked	July 2010
People who worked few hours	April 2005
Trends in hours worked	October 2010
	< Back to top >
Industrial Disputes	
Industrial Disputes	July 2004
Job Starters	
First job starters	January 2008
Job starters	October 2005
Labour Force Participation	
Full-time and part-time participation in Australia: a cohort analysis	July 2005
Labour force participation in Australia	January 2005
Labour force participation: international comparison	January 2004
The relationship between GDP and employment	January 2006
	< Back to top >
Migrants	
Country of birth	April 2004
Labour outcomes of migrants	January 2006
Multiple Job Holders	
Multiple job holders	April 2004
	< Back to top >
Non-Standard Employment	
Job flexibility of casual employees	April 2009
Labour hire workers	January 2010
Measures of casual employment	October 2008
Occupation	
Spotlight on Occupation	April 2004
	< Back to top >
Pay Setting	
Jurisdictional coverage of pay-setting arrangements	July 2009
Jurisdictional coverage of pay-setting arrangements	January 2008
Methods of setting pay	October 2009
Methods of setting pay	April 2007
Methods of setting pay	April 2005
Methods of setting pay	April 2004
Retirement	
Retirement Intentions	January 2009

[< Back to top >](#)

Trade Union

Trade union membership	July 2010
Trade union membership	April 2004

Transitions

Changes in where people work over time	October 2006
Interstate commuters: An analysis of 2006 Census data	October 2008
Job search experience: methods and barriers in finding jobs	April 2004
Labour force transitions	July 2006

[< Back to top >](#)

Technical Reports

Census and the Labour Force Survey	October 2007
Changes to coding processes for industry and occupation in the Labour Force Survey	July 2005
Changes to Labour Force Survey seasonal adjustment processes	January 2004
Extended labour force underutilisation rate	July 2009
Implementation of computer assisted interviewing in the Labour Force Survey	January 2005
Improvements to Labour Force estimates	April 2004
Labour Force Survey regions	July 2004
Labour Force Survey sample redesign	April 2003
Measures of weekly hours worked	July 2003
New Labour Force Survey sample selections: analysis of the effort on estimates	October 2003
Proposals from the review of ABS working arrangements statistics	October 2005
Standard error models for the Labour Force Survey	October 2005
Underenumeration in the Labour Force Survey: Findings of a Census data enhancement study	July 2008

Underemployment

Characteristics of underemployed workers	April 2003
Underemployed workers	July 2008

[< Back to top >](#)

Underutilisation

Annual measures of labour underutilisation	April 2005
Duration of underutilisation	April 2010
Experimental volume measures of labour underutilisation	July 2003
Historical labour underutilisation	July 2009
Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns	January 2011
Labour underutilisation	April 2009
Labour underutilisation	July 2004
Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment	January 2011
Measures of labour underutilisation	January 2011
Quarterly labour force underutilisation rate	July 2008
Spotlight on underutilisation	January 2009
Underutilisation in the economic downturn	July 2009
Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation	April 2007
Updated volume measures of labour underutilisation	April 2006
Volume measures of labour underutilisation	October 2009
Volume measures of labour underutilisation	July 2008

Unemployment

Available labour of the unemployed	October 2007
Comparing unemployment and the claimant count	January 2009
Job search experience of unemployed people	July 2006
Long-term unemployment	October 2006
Retrenched unemployed people	April 2010
Unemployment and participation rates in Australia: a cohort analysis	July 2003

[< Back to top >](#)

Working Arrangements

Employee share schemes	July 2005
Shift workers	October 2010
Working time arrangements	July 2010

Youth

Labour market transitions of teenagers	October 2003
--	--------------

[< Back to top >](#)

Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment

Contents >> Articles and Analysis >> Labour underutilisation: more than unemployment

Labour Underutilisation: More than unemployment

Labour underutilisation (that is, unemployment and underemployment) can have a large impact on the people who experience it, their families, the community and also the economy. From a social viewpoint, there is concern that people whose aspirations for work are not being realised may suffer in a number of ways - personally, financially and socially. From an economic perspective, there is interest in the capacity for growth in the labour force now, and the future labour supply and its potential to contribute to the production of goods and services. The labour underutilisation rate attempts to provide a more comprehensive view of underutilised labour in the labour force than the unemployment rate or the underemployed rate can do alone.

What is Labour Underutilisation?

Unemployment is the most widely known and used component of labour underutilisation. However, labour underutilisation includes a wider group of people than the unemployed, such as people who are part-time workers who are willing and available to work more hours, and people who are willing and available to work but have become discouraged and stopped looking for work.

Labour underutilisation includes people who are:

- Unemployed;
- Underemployed; or
- Marginally attached to the labour force.

Who are the unemployed?

People are classified as unemployed based on their activity in the survey reference week. Every month the ABS collects information from the occupants of a sample of dwellings. These people are asked a range of questions, such as whether or not they are working, and if they are not working they are asked whether they looked for work and whether they were available for work. Answers to questions like these allow the ABS to accurately estimate the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over in a way that is consistent with international standards. The ABS does not use information about the receipt of any income assistance to measure unemployment.

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and had:

- actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Long-Term Unemployment

People who are unemployed for long periods of time (for a year or more) may experience greater economic hardship and social consequences than those who are unemployed for short periods. In addition, they may have more difficulties in finding employment because of loss of relevant skills and employers' perception of their 'employability'. The ABS considers people who have been unemployed continuously for 12 months or more to be long-term unemployed. A long-term unemployment rate is included in the suite of labour underutilisation measures because the economic and social consequences of being unemployed are affected by the length of time a person is unemployed.

Underemployment

Underemployment, like unemployment, reflects additional labour supply which is available but which is underutilised, and is an important component of underutilised labour. Underemployed workers are basically employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. Being underemployed can have a significant impact on the financial, personal and social lives of both individuals and their families. While there are some people who are entirely without work (the unemployed), there is also a growing number of people who are in work but who are underemployed. Most of the underemployed are part-time workers who would like to work more hours, but the underemployed also includes full-time workers who could not work their usual full-time hours for economic reasons.

The two distinctive groups defined as underemployed are:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the reference week; and
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Extended Labour Force Underutilisation

While the labour force underutilisation rate reflects the proportion of people in the labour force who are not being fully utilised, there are also some people outside the labour force who could be considered as part of the potential labour supply.

Extended labour force underutilisation is the broadest measure of underutilised labour which includes:

- Unemployed;
- Underemployed; and
- Two groups of people considered to be **marginally attached** to the labour force.

What is marginal attachment to the labour force?

The concept of marginal labour force attachment is quite broad. It includes people who have a strong likelihood of joining the labour force in

the near future as well as some who have taken few, if any, steps to find employment.

A group of special interest within the marginally attached population to the labour force is discouraged jobseekers. These are people who want to work and could start work within four weeks if offered a job, but who have given up looking for work for reasons including:

- being considered too young or too old by employers;
- lacking necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- having difficulties with language or ethnic background;
- feeling there are no jobs in their locality or line of work; or
- feeling there are no jobs available at all.

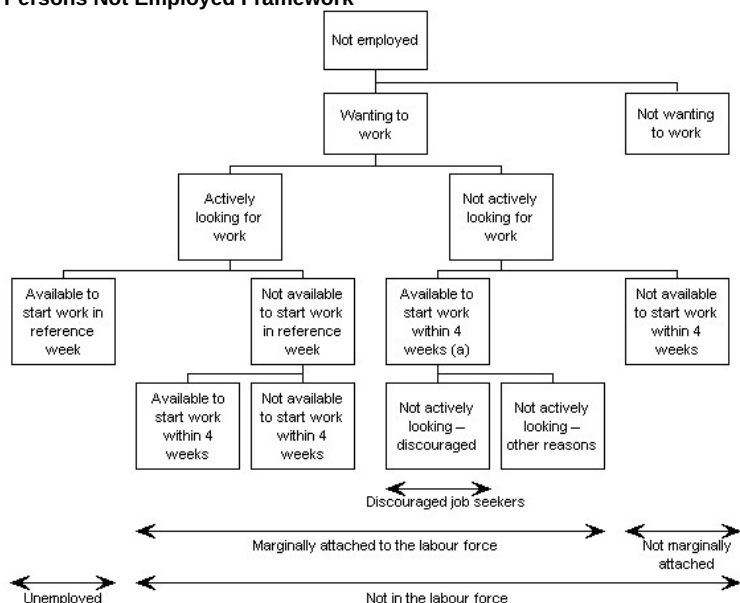
This group shares some characteristics with unemployed people, although they have given up looking for work because they believe they cannot find a job. The annual LFS supplementary survey Persons Not in the Labour Force (cat. no. 6220.0) collects data about people who, while considered to be outside the labour force, nevertheless have some attachment to the labour force, and could be considered to be 'jobless' (although technically neither employed nor unemployed).

Two groups defined as marginally attached to the labour force are included in the extended labour force underutilisation rate, namely:

- persons actively looking for work, who were not available to start work in the reference week, but were available to start work within four weeks; and
- discouraged job seekers - a group of people wanting to work and who were available to start work within four weeks; however their main reason for not looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for labour market related reasons.

The following framework outlines those people not working and the various criteria to determine whether they are unemployed or not in the labour force. For those not in the labour force it further identifies those marginally attached.

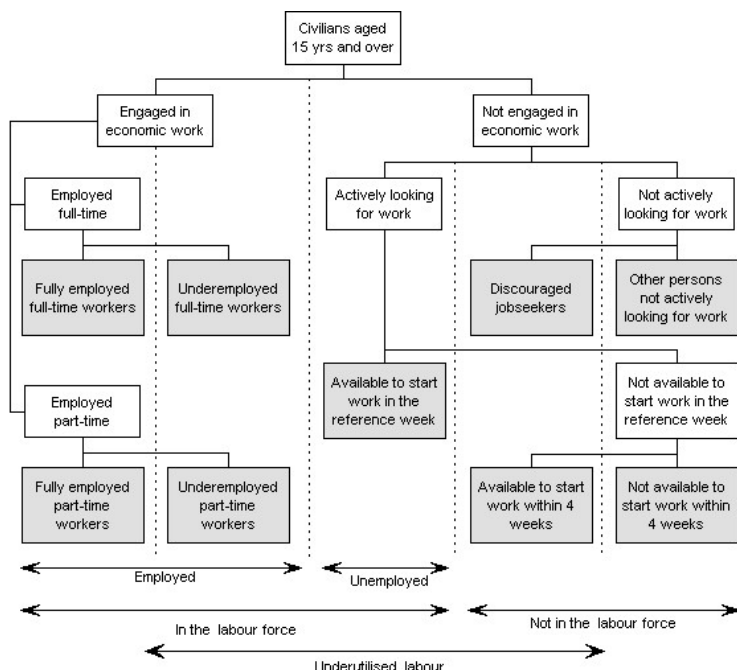
Persons Not Employed Framework



The overall picture of labour underutilisation

The following framework draws together the unemployed, the underemployed and persons not in the labour force to give an overall picture of labour underutilisation.

Labour Underutilisation Framework



Labour underutilisation measures in hours

Labour underutilisation can be measured either by population (head count) or hours based (volume) estimates. The headcount measure relates to the number of people whose labour is not being fully used, whereas the volume measure provides a better picture of the total amount of potential labour inputs, or hours of work available, to the economy.

Whether people are unemployed or underemployed, not all people are in search of work (or more work) or require the same number of hours of work. The main use of the measure can be illustrated by the following example. Suppose there were two people who are considered underemployed, where one is working 20 hours but would like to work 30 hours, and the other person is working 25 hours and would like to work 30 hours as well. Both people will be counted as underemployed and would contribute equally to the headcount underutilisation measure. However, the fact that one is willing to work an additional 10 hours per week and the other only an additional 5 hours would be reflected in the volume underutilisation measure.

Remember!

There is no single measure that can fully capture the complexity of the labour market or satisfy all the purposes for which such data are needed. The number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate are widely used as measures of the available resources which are not being utilised in the economy. However, the official unemployment rate clearly only captures part of the picture of the total underutilised labour resources, and this picture can be supplemented with other measures of labour underutilisation.

[Back to top](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Measures of labour underutilisation

[Contents >> Articles and Analysis >> Measures of labour underutilisation](#)

Measures of labour underutilisation

The ABS produces a range of measures of labour underutilisation including the official unemployment rate. The official unemployment rate and the three supplementary measures are strongly correlated through the economic cycle. The supplementary measures cover a number of population groups who are generally considered to be underutilised labour resources including:

- unemployed people;
- underemployed people; and
- people with a marginal attachment to the labour force.

This wider coverage helps overcome some of the limitations inherent in the official unemployment rate for measuring the degree to which available and potential labour resources are not being utilised in the economy.

To understand the structure and the dynamics of the labour market, the ABS provides a range of data on available labour resources in the form of labour underutilisation, which consists of five measures.

FIVE MEASURES OF LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force of the same group, where the labour force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. This measure is available monthly from Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Long-term unemployment rate

The number of persons who have been unemployed continuously for 12 months or more, as a percentage of the labour force. This measure is available monthly from Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force. This measure is available quarterly from Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Extended labour force underutilisation rate

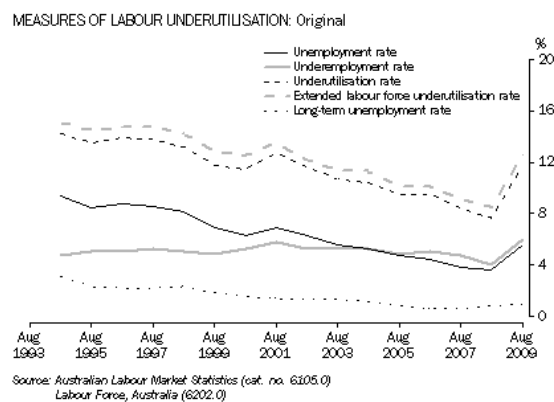
The broadest measure of underutilised labour which adds together:

- Unemployed;
- Underemployed; plus
- Two groups of people marginally attached to the labour force:
 - (i) persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks; and
 - (ii) discouraged jobseekers

The rate is calculated as a percentage of the labour force augmented by the marginally attached populations described above in (i) and (ii).

This measure is available annually from Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat.no.6105.0).

The following graph shows these five measures and how they have changed over recent years.



Volume measures of labour underutilisation

While the rate measures described above count each individual person whose labour is underutilised, volume measures are calculated by dividing the number of hours of underutilised labour in the labour force into the sum of actual and underutilised hours. Volume measures can be derived for each of the corresponding underutilisation rates.

Volume measures of labour underutilisation are available annually as datacubes from Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).

VOLUME MEASURES

Volume unemployment rate

This refers to the hours of labour sought by unemployed people, as a percentage of the potential hours in the labour force (those hours worked by employed people and those hours sought by unemployed people).

Volume underemployment rate

This refers to the additional hours of labour preferred by underemployed workers, as a percentage of the potential hours in the labour force.

Volume labour force underutilisation rate

This refers to the total volume of underutilised labour in the labour force (hours sought by unemployed people, plus additional hours preferred by underemployed people), as a percentage of the potential hours in the labour force.

The following graph shows the three volume measures of underutilisation.



Feature Article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns

Contents >> Articles and Analysis >> Feature Article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns

Feature Article: Labour force characteristics during recent economic downturns

Introduction

The most recent economic downturn was the fifth main period of slowing or declining economic growth in Australia's recent history. In the last 30 years, two severe and protracted major economic recessions occurred during the early stages of both the 1980s and 1990s, with a short economic downturn between them in the mid 1980s. A fourth downturn occurred during the early part of the 2000s, followed by the most recent in late 2008 to early 2009, triggered by the global financial crisis. These latter two were both mild in length and severity in Australia.

Economic downturns are typically characterised by falling employment, rising unemployment, and a decrease in the participation rate. However, there are a number of other statistical measures that can be useful in observing changes to Australia's labour force characteristics during these marked declines in economic activity, particularly in the most recent downturns where the rise in unemployment was not as severe as in the past.

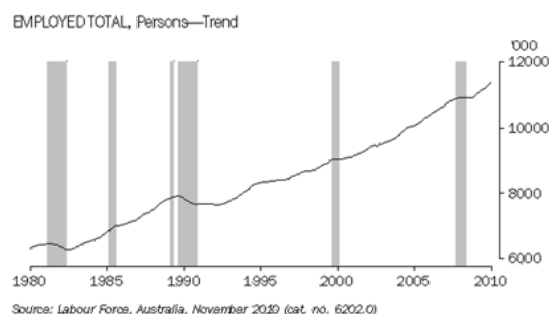
There are a number of key measures that the Australian Bureau of Statistics produces that are used to assist in understanding such movements in the labour market and are available on a monthly or quarterly basis from the Labour Force Survey. These measures are:

- labour force, the total number of employed and unemployed;
- aggregate monthly hours worked;
- employment to population ratio, those employed as a proportion of the civilian population;
- unemployment rate, those unemployed as a proportion of the labour force;
- participation rate, the labour force as a proportion of the civilian population;
- underemployment rate, those underemployed as a proportion of the labour force; and
- labour force underutilisation rate, those unemployed and underemployed as a proportion of the labour force.

This article presents trend data and describes each of these measures and their use in understanding movements in Australia's labour market.

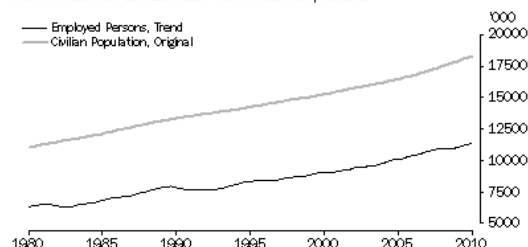
Employment

The ABS releases the count of the number of people employed each month in the measure, total employed persons. The number of employed persons in Australia has generally risen since the last major economic downturn in the early 1990s. Since 1978, the largest fall in employment occurred at this time, between June 1990 and December 1992, falling from 7,910,800 employed persons to 7,637,300, a decrease in employment of 273,500 persons (3.5%). For graphs in this article, the shaded areas indicate quarters where the percentage change in Gross Domestic Product (GDP - Chain Volume measure, Trend) was less than or equal to +0.2%, indicating the periods of slowing or declining economic growth. Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0). All graphs end at November 2010, to coincide with the latest available data.



Each month, the results of the Labour Force Survey are benchmarked to the latest civilian population estimates. As the population increases, there is a corresponding upward influence on the level estimates of Australia's labour force characteristics, such as the number of people employed. Each new estimate of the number of employed persons in a month will have a component of this population increase, plus or minus the relative changes in Australia's employment characteristics. These relative movements in employment are often disguised by the general upward movement of population growth. The employment estimates are best used as a point in time level measure (that is, the level of employment at a particular moment in time) rather than for tracking month-to-month movements in employment.

COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION, Persons



Sources: Labour Force, Australia, November 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0)

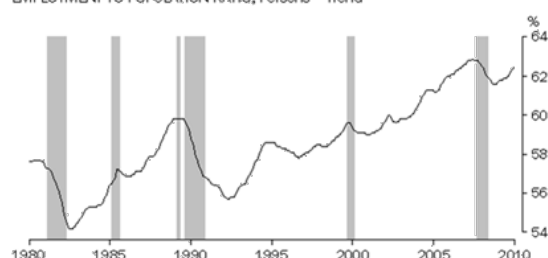
Employment to Population Ratio

The ratio of the number of employed persons to the civilian population, termed the employment to population ratio, is a measure that removes the influence of population growth from the level estimates, revealing the underlying month-to-month movements in the employed proportion of the civilian population. This measure allows for better comparability of Australia's employment characteristics across time.

The two largest declines in the employment to population ratio occurred during the early 1980s and 1990s. Between July 1981 and June 1983, the employment to population ratio fell 3.5 percentage points, from 57.7% to 54.2%, and between December 1989 and February 1993 it fell 4.0 percentage points, from 59.8% to 55.7%.

The third largest fall occurred during the most recent downturn where the employment to population ratio decreased 1.3 percentage points, from the highest recorded rate of 62.8% in May 2008, to 61.6% in August 2009. During the same period, this decrease was not reflected in the measure of total employed persons, due to the effects of population growth. Interestingly, the lowest point of this recent downturn still remained higher than any point during all of the prior economic cycles (between February 1978 and April 2006).

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO, Persons—Trend



Sources: Labour Force, Australia, November 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0)

Aggregate Monthly Hours Worked

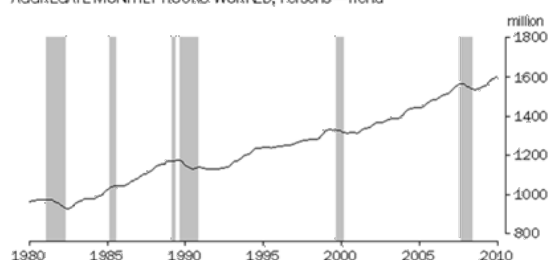
An alternative measure of the employment characteristics of Australia is the series Aggregate monthly hours worked. Rather than measuring the number of people employed, this measures the total number of hours worked in a given month by all employed Australians. Similar to the employed persons estimates, it is influenced by the growing population of Australia, but it is more responsive to increases in underutilisation, as increases in unemployment and underemployment (discussed later in the article) will have a negative influence on the total number of hours worked in a particular month.

During each of the main economic downturns, there was a corresponding fall in aggregate monthly hours worked. During both the 1980s and 1990s recessions, hours worked dropped by 47 million hours; from 975 million hours in September 1981 to 928 million hours in April 1983 (4.8% decrease) and from 1,175 million hours in June 1990 to 1,128 million hours in October 1992 (4.0% decrease). Both of these are the largest declines in aggregate hours worked in the last 30 years.

During the mid-1980s downturn, hours worked only fell by 0.3 million hours (less than 0.1%) between September and November 1986, but the impact was reflected in a slower than usual growth rate between April 1986 and February 1987. In the early 2000s, hours worked fell by 14 million hours (1.1% decrease); from 1,329 million in Feb 2000 to 1,315 million in November 2001. In the most recent downturn, aggregate monthly hours worked dropped from 1,566 million hours in July 2008 to 1,535 million hours in June 2009, a decrease of 32 million hours (2.0%). Since then, aggregate monthly hours worked has grown to 1,602 million hours in November 2010.

In the recent economic downturn, precipitated by the global financial crisis, there is a marked difference in the trend behaviour of the total employed persons series compared to the aggregate monthly hours worked series. Employed persons remained relatively flat during the crisis, whereas hours worked instead showed a noticeable decline, which indicates that while people generally did not lose their jobs as a result of the downturn, they did suffer a reduction in their hours worked. This highlights the importance of comparing multiple labour force characteristics when considering the effects of economic downturns on the Australian population.

AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED, Persons—Trend



Sources: Labour Force, Australia, November 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0)

Unemployment

The ABS releases the count of the number of people unemployed each month in the measure, total unemployed persons. Similar to employment, estimates of unemployed persons are also affected by the rise in Australia's population and are best used as point in time level measures.

The number of unemployed persons has risen after each of the five main economic downturns. The largest increase was between November 1989 and December 1992, rising 443,200 persons, almost doubling (93.3% increase) from 474,800 to 918,000, the highest recorded level of unemployment since 1978. The number of unemployed persons during the two most recent downturns peaked at similar levels; 682,100 persons in October 2001 and 673,400 persons in August 2009.



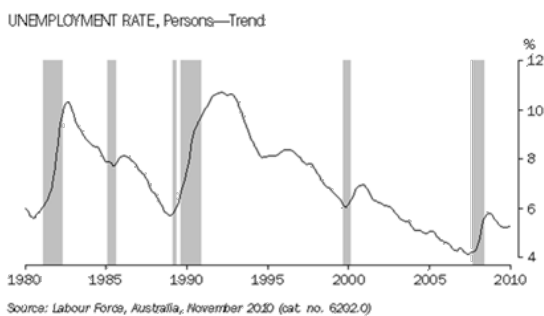
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate removes the effect of population growth by expressing the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. This is the best measure for tracking Australia's unemployment proportionally from month to month.

From the trend estimates of unemployment rate, the 1980s and 1990s economic downturns both peaked at similar levels; 10.3% in June 1983 and 10.7% in September 1992, although the 1990s economic downturn remained around this level for longer. Between these record highs, the mid-1980's downturn saw a localised peak of 8.1% in November 1986.

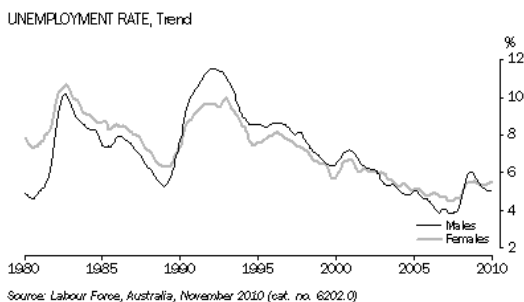
During the early 2000s, the unemployment rate rose to 7.0% in October 2001 and in the most recent downturn peaked at 5.8% in August 2009, which is only 0.2 percentage points higher than the lowest unemployment rate recorded during previous economic cycles.

Interestingly, when comparing the last two economic downturns, the latest 2009 peak unemployment rate (5.8%) was less severe than the previous peak in 2001 (7.0%), whereas in the total unemployed persons series, the last two economic downturns peaked at similar levels. This highlights the importance of removing the effects of population growth in order to make more informed comparisons between different time periods.



Since the participation rate of males is higher than females (shown later in the article), the effect of economic downturns on the male unemployment rate is more pronounced. The largest rise in the male unemployment rate was 6.2 percentage points during the 1990s recession (5.3% in October 1989 to 11.5% in December 1992) compared with the largest female unemployment rate rise of 3.7 percentage points during the same downturn (6.3% in October 1989 to 9.9% October 1993).

The female unemployment rate was higher than the male rate during the early and mid- 1980s downturns. During the 1990s recession, the male unemployment rate overtook the female rate in October 1990 and remained higher through both the recovery and the milder early 2000 downturn. From July 2003 onwards, the female unemployment rate was generally higher than the male rate, excluding a brief period between February 2009 and February 2010 during the most recent downturn, where the male unemployment rate exhibited a sharp increase before subsiding during the remainder of 2010.

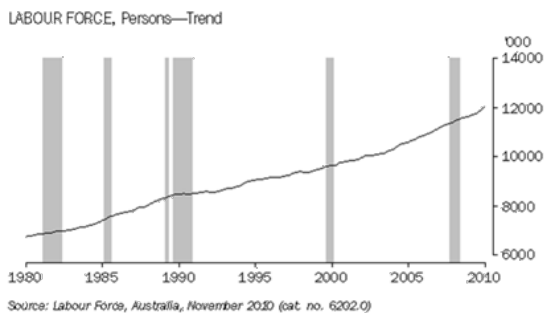


Labour Force

The labour force is a measure of the total number of people in Australia that are willing and able to work at a given point in time; that is, it includes the total number of persons employed together with the total number of persons unemployed for a given collection month. Similar to the total number of employed and unemployed persons, the labour force measure is affected by the rise in Australia's population, and the

estimates are best used as point in time level measures.

Since February 1978, the labour force has risen from 6,425,400 people to 12,022,900 people in November 2010. The trend behaviour of the series seems to be generally unaffected by economic downturns, so it is again important to compare this with other labour force measures, particularly the participation rate, when investigating changes to the labour force with respect to the economy.



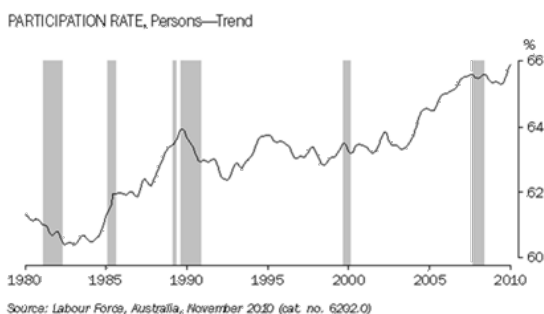
Participation Rate

The participation rate is a proportional measure of the labour force in regards to the total civilian population in Australia. This allows for comparability of the relative size of the labour force across time, revealing changes to the proportion of Australians who are actively participating in Australia's economy.

The largest falls in the participation rate occurred during the early 1980s and 1990s economic downturns; falling 1.1 percentage points from 61.5% in July 1980 to 60.4% in December 1983 and 1.5 percentage points from 63.9% in July 1990 to 62.4% in April 1993. The lowest point of the 1990s economic downturn (62.4%) did not fall below the highest point just prior to the 1980s economic downturn (61.5% in July 1980). The mid 1980's downturn saw no significant falls in participation rate, but the impact is reflected in the relatively flat growth rate for the period April 1986 to December 1987.

After recovering to 63.8% in November 1995 following the 1990s economic downturn, the participation rate oscillated around a relatively steady level through the early 2000s downturn, before trending up to reach 65.6% in April 2008. The participation rate remained relatively steady during the latest economic downturn, with a fall of only 0.3 percentage points to 65.3% in April 2010, but has since recovered to a record high 65.9% in November 2010.

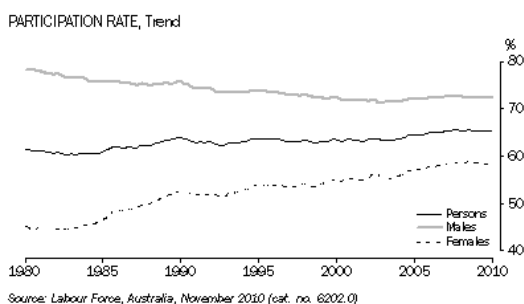
Participation in the last 5 years has been at the highest level ever in the last 30 years.



The participation rate by sex reveals significant variance over the past 30 years, but has been gradually converging over time.

The male participation rates have been consistently higher than female; however, there has been a gradual decline from 79.4% in February 1978 to 72.9% (a decrease of 6.5 percentage points) in November 2010, whereas the female participation rate has generally increased from 43.5% to 59.2% (an increase of 15.7 percentage points) over the same period.

The increase in female participation has offset the decline in male participation, and, in the last 5 years, the overall participation rate of the Australian population has been higher than in any preceding period.



Underemployment Rate

The underemployment rate is similar to the unemployment rate, but instead of measuring Australia's unemployment characteristics, it measures the proportion of the labour force that are currently employed, but are willing and able to work more hours. It highlights people in the labour force who are not unemployed, and so are not captured in the unemployment rate, but are dissatisfied with their current working arrangements and would like to work more hours. This is sometimes referred to as the 'hidden' potential in the labour force.

For example, during an economic downturn, a portion of the labour force lose their job, become unemployed and contribute to a rising

unemployment rate. Another portion of the labour force might not lose their jobs, but their working arrangements might change so that they are working fewer hours. If they are dissatisfied with this loss in hours and are available to work more, they are classed as underemployed, and contribute to a rising underemployment rate.

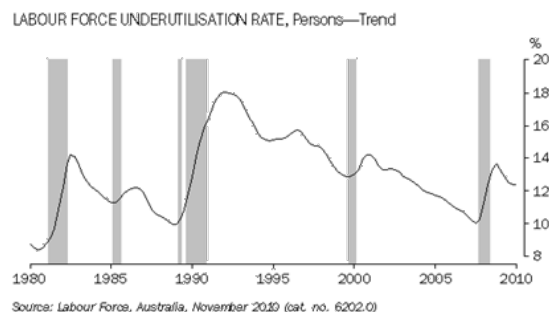
The trend estimate of the underemployment rate increased during each of the five main economic downturns. The early and mid- 1980's downturns peaked at similar levels of underemployment; 4.0% in May 1983 and 4.1% in August 1987 respectively. The largest increase was between May 1988 and August 1992, increasing from 3.6% to 7.0%. Underemployment then largely remained around this level between August 1992 and November 2004, with a brief increase to 7.4% in November 2001, coinciding with the early 2000s downturn. The trend estimate recorded its longest prolonged period of decline between February 2002 and May 2008, falling to 5.9%, before rising to a record high during the global financial crisis of 7.9% in August 2009. Since then, underemployment has fallen to 7.2% in August 2010 and remained steady until November 2010.



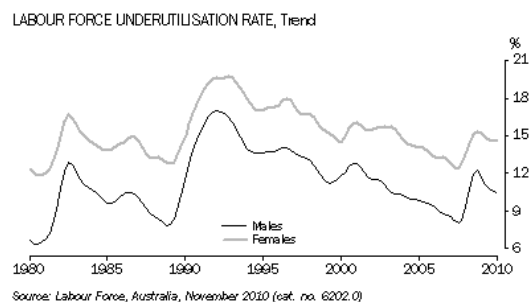
Labour Force Underutilisation Rate

The labour force underutilisation rate combines the unemployment rate and the underemployment rate into a single measure of the proportion of the labour force that is willing and able to do more work. It includes people who are not currently working and want to start, and those who are currently working but want to and can work more hours. It is regarded as a more complete measure of the proportion of the labour force that has the potential to be utilised more in Australia's economy. During an economic downturn, the underutilisation rate will capture both rises in unemployment and rises in underemployment.

The lowest level of underutilisation in the last 30 years was 8.4% in May 1981. During the early 1980s economic downturn, underutilisation rose to 14.2% in May 1983 and then recovered to a low of 9.9% in August 1989, interrupted by a relatively small rise to 12.2% in February 1987 during the mid-1980s downturn. The following 1990s downturn resulted in an increase of 8.1 percentage points to reach a peak of 18.1% from August 1989 to November 1992; the highest recorded underutilisation rate in the last 30 years. The underutilisation rate then generally recovered between November 1992 and May 2008, with a brief rise to 14.2% in August 2001 during the early 2000s downturn. From a low of 10.0% in May 2008, the underutilisation rate increased to 13.7% in August 2009 during the global financial crisis, before recovering to 12.4% in November 2010.



The female underutilisation rate has been consistently higher than the male rate over the last 30 years, with a high of 19.7% during the 1990s recession in August 1993. This is a different result to the unemployment rate statistics, where, during the same recession, the male unemployment rate was higher. Higher female underutilisation is due to consistently higher levels in underemployment of females. During the recent downturn, the male underutilisation rate rose to 12.2% and female underutilisation rose to 15.4%, both in August 2009.



Conclusion

There are a number of key labour force measures available from the Labour Force Survey. Some of these measures are influenced by changes in the underlying civilian population. Therefore, it is important to consider the full range of measures to form a comprehensive picture of the labour market, particularly during times of economic decline.

Further information

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Find Out More

[Contents >> Find Out More](#)



Find Out More

This section contains the following subsection :

- [Contact us](#)
- [About the ABS labour statistics program](#)
- [Introduction to Labour Statistics training course](#)
- [Related publications](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Contact us

[Contents >> Find Out More >> Contact us](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or queries regarding labour related statistics, contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on (02) 6252 7206 or email labour.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Published information is available free of charge on the ABS website. Where data are not available on our website at the level of detail you require, the ABS can provide you with customised data to meet your specific requirements. To discuss options, please contact Contact Client Services Section in Canberra for an obligation free quote on (02) 6252 7400 or email information.consultancy@abs.gov.au.

All key labour statistical releases and publications can be found at the Labour Releases section of the Labour Topics @ a Glance page. For help finding and accessing ABS products and services contact the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

About the ABS labour statistics program

[Contents >> Find Out More >> About the ABS labour statistics program](#)

About the ABS labour statistics program

Labour Market National Statistics Centre

The Labour Market National Statistics Centre is responsible for:

- promoting the effective use of labour market statistics;
- influencing the development of national and international frameworks, and assisting with their implementation; and
- improving the relevance and reliability of labour market statistics produced by the ABS.

Labour Market Dynamics Team

The Labour Market Dynamics team specialises in statistics that inform on transitions within the labour market, particularly into and out of employment. The team has a focus on understanding the nature of these transitions and the people who are affected by them. If you have any questions relating to transitions, unemployment and underemployment, underutilisation, job search experience and job vacancies, retirement, labour force participation or persons not in the labour force, please contact Joanne Baker (team leader) on (02) 6252 7206 or email labour.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Wages and Workplace Relations Team

The Wages and Workplace Relations team specialises in statistics relating to the nature of employment, such as wages and conditions of employment, employment arrangements, working time arrangements, leave entitlements, and workplace relations (bargaining, trade union membership). If you have any questions in regards to earnings measures and sources (including gender wage issues), independent contracting and other forms of employment, casual employment or methods of setting pay, please contact Alexa Olczyk (team leader) on (02) 6252 7206 or email labour.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Labour Employer Surveys Business Statistics Centre

The Labour Employer Surveys Business Statistics Centre is based in Perth and is responsible for a suite of national surveys which provide information about the structure and performance of the Australian labour market. Data are collected and produced in relation to average weekly earnings, job vacancies, industrial disputes, and employee earnings and hours. For more information about these surveys, please contact Antoinette Beckwith (Director) on (08) 9360 5187 or email <antoinette.beckwith@abs.gov.au>.

Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys Household Survey Centre

The Labour Force and Supplementary Surveys Household Survey Centre is responsible for the management of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which provides extensive information covering Australian labour supply and demand, and workplace relations. The MPS includes the Labour Force Survey, Labour Supplementary Surveys (LFSS) and the Multipurpose Household Survey (MPHS). The Labour Force Survey provides monthly estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. The LFSS and MPHS collect information on a range of labour topics including forms of employment, job search experience, labour mobility, locations of work, working time arrangements, persons not in the labour force, retirement, and work-related injuries. For more information about these surveys, please call (02) 6252 6525 or email <labourforce@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Introduction to Labour Statistics training course

[Contents >> Find Out More >> Introduction to Labour Statistics training course](#)

Introduction to Labour Statistics training course



Introduction to Labour Statistics is a one-day training course run in partnership between the National Statistical Training Institute and the Labour Market Statistics National Statistics Centre.

The training course suits people with or without a related academic background, providing an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It also explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of data available.

The course contents includes:

- Overview of ABS labour collections
- Labour supply and labour demand
- Measures of underutilised labour
- Labour market dynamics
- Describing employment conditions
- Information about population groups (including regions and Indigenous persons)
- Earning and labour costs
- Industrial relations
- Guide to ABS data sources (including publications, spreadsheets, datacubes, standard errors, original/trend and seasonally adjusted series)

The course outcomes:

- Understanding of key labour concepts and issues
- Awareness of available ABS labour-related data and products.

Introduction to Labour Statistics training courses are generally held in each state capital each year, with courses currently scheduled in most state capitals for 2011.

For more details about this and other statistical training, or to register interest in a course, please refer to the [ABS Training page](#), or contact Michael Gerrity on (02) 6252 5514 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Related publications

[Contents >> Find Out More >> Related publications](#)

Related Publications

	cat. no.	Frequency	Reference period
Labour Force Survey			
Labour Force, Australia	6202.0	Monthly	Nov 2010
Labour Force, Australia - Electronic Delivery	6291.0.55.001	Monthly	Nov 2010
Labour Force, Australia	6291.0.55.003	Quarterly	Nov 2010

Labour force supplementary surveys			
Childhood Education and Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	Jun 2008 (Reissue)
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	Jun 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2010
Employee Earnings, Benefits & Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	Aug 2009
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	Nov 2009
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	Jul 2009
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	Feb 2009
Labour Force Status & Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Triennial	Nov 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	Feb 2010
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	Nov 2008
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	Sep 2009
Retrenchment & Redundancy, Australia(a)	6266.0	Discontinued	Jul 2001
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	Sep 2009
Working Time Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Triennial	Nov 2009
Multi purpose household surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	Jul 2008 to Jun 2009
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia(b)	6238.0	Biennial	Jul 2008 to Jun 2009
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Four-yearly	2009-10
Other labour surveys			
Average Weekly Earnings, Australia	6302.0	Quarterly	Aug 2010
Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia(c)	6248.0.55.002	Annual	2009-10
Employee Earnings & Hours, Australia	6306.0	Biennial	Aug 2008
Employer Training Expenditure & Practices, Australia	6362.0	Irregular	2001-02
Employment Arrangements, Retirement & Superannuation, Australia	6361.0	Irregular	Apr to Jul 2007 (reissue)
Industrial Disputes, Australia	6321.0.55.001	Quarterly	Sep 2010
Job Vacancies, Australia	6354.0	Quarterly	Aug 2010
Labour Costs, Australia	6348.0.55.001	Irregular	2002-03
Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6287.0	Annual	2009
Labour Force, Australia: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families	6224.0.55.001	Irregular	Jun 2010
Labour Price Index, Australia	6345.0	Quarterly	Sep 2010
Wage & Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia(c)	6248.0.55.001	Discontinued	Jun qtr 2007
Information papers and other reference material			
Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6290.0.55.001	Irregular	2009
Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources & Methods	5216.0	Irregular	2000
Changes to ABS Measures of Employee Remuneration	6313.0	Irregular	2006
Changes to Labour Force Survey Products	6297.0	Irregular	2003
Estimating Average Annual Hours Worked	1352.0.55.077	Irregular	Jun 2006
Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics	6292.0	Irregular	2007
Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey	6224.0.55.002	Irregular	2008
Labour Force Survey Sample Design	6269.0	Irregular	Nov 2007 (third edition)
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors	6298.0	Irregular	2005
Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube	6298.0.55.001	Irregular	Oct 2009
Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide	6103	Irregular	Dec 2009
Labour Price Index: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6351.0.55.001	Irregular	2004
Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources & Methods	6102.0.55.001	Irregular	Apr 2007
Labour Statistics in Brief, Australia	6104.0	Annual	2010
Labour Statistics News (d)	6106.0	Discontinued	Aug 2010
Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey	6232.0	Irregular	2004
Year Book, Australia	1301.0	Biennial	2009-10
Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)			
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, CURF, 1994-1997	6286.0.30.001	Discontinued	1994-97
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-1997: Expanded CURF	6286.0.55.001	Irregular	1994-97
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns: Expanded CURF, Technical Paper	6286.0.55.002	Irregular	1994-97
Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia	4402.0.55.001	Irregular	Jun 2008
Childhood Education and Care, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	4402.0.55.002	Irregular	Jun 2008
Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6306.0.55.002	Irregular	May 2006
Microdata: Forms of Employment, Basic CURF, Australia	6359.0.30.001	Irregular	Aug 1998
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Basic CURF, Australia	6202.0.30.001	Biennial	Aug 2008
Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia: Basic CURF, Technical Paper	6202.0.30.002	Biennial	Aug 2008
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF	6202.0.30.004	Biennial	Nov 2010
Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6202.0.30.005	Biennial	Feb 2010
Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Expanded CURF, Australia	6361.0.55.001	Irregular	Apr to Jul 2007
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia	6306.0.55.001	Irregular	May 2006
Technical manual: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia	6278.0.55.001	Irregular	2009
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Basic CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.002	Irregular	2009
Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Technical Manual	6278.0.55.003	Irregular	2005
Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Australia, Expanded CURF, Australia	6278.0.55.004	Irregular	2009
Microdata: Survey of Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, May 2009	6227.0.30.001	Biennial	2009
Survey of Income and Housing - CURF, Technical Manual	6541.0	Irregular	2007-08
Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007-08	6541.0.30.001	Irregular	2007-08
Other publications			
Australian Economic Indicators	1350.0	Monthly	Nov 2010
Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure & Product	5206.0	Quarterly	Sep 2010
Australian Social Trends	4102.0	Quarterly	Dec 2010
Australian System of National Accounts	5204.0	Annual	2009-10
Business Indicators, Australia	5676.0	Quarterly	Jun 2010
Census of Population & Housing: Selected Education & Labour Force Characteristics, Australia	2017.0	Irregular	2001
Education & Training Indicators, Australia	4230.0	Irregular	2002
General Social Survey: Summary Results, Australia	4159.0	Irregular	2006
Government Benefits, Taxes & Household Income, Australia	6537.0	Irregular	2003-04
Household Income & Income Distribution, Australia	6523.0	Biennial	2007-08
Measures of Australia's Progress	1370.0	Irregular	2010
Regional Wage & Salary Earner Statistics, Australia	5673.0.55.001	Irregular	2003-04
Superannuation: Coverage & Financial Characteristics, Australia	6360.0	Irregular	2000
Voluntary Work, Australia	4441.0	Irregular	2006

a. Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey until 1997, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.

b. Previously conducted as a labour force supplementary survey in 2000, data now collected as part of the Multi Purpose Household Survey.

c. The quarterly survey of Employment and Earnings - Public Sector has been replaced with an annual survey, commencing with the 2007-08 reference year. As a result,

- the June quarter 2007 was the final issue of Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.001). Data from the annual survey are released in Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002).
- d. Content now contained within Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).
- e.

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Data sources for tables

[Contents >> Data sources for tables](#)



DATA SOURCES

Earlier editions of this publication contained tables which drew together a range of labour statistics from a number of ABS sources and some international comparisons from the International Labour Organisation. To ensure users have access to the most recent sources, this publication no longer contains data that can be found in other publications.

The table below has been designed to assist you in obtaining this information from the original source.

- **No.** and **Table Description** correspond to the position of the table in the October 2010 edition of Australian Labour Market Statistics.
- **Data Source** indicates the most accessible source(s) of data, as time-series spreadsheets or datacubes.

A wide range of ABS labour related publications and data is freely available on the ABS website. The Related Publications tab of this publication contains links to the latest releases of many ABS labour related publications.

To find a labour market related publication, spreadsheet or datacube on the ABS website, go to <https://www.abs.gov.au> [Statistics - Catalogue Number - 6. Labour Statistics and Prices]. All products can be accessed by catalogue number and subject e.g. to find the publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0), look under '62. Labour force'. Select '6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia' and from the Summary tab select the Details tab.

All ABS statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

For more information, contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, email labour.statistics@abs.gov.au.

No.	Table Description	Data Source
1.1	Labour Force status by Sex: trend series	Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)
		6202.0 spreadsheet table 1
1.2	Age by social marital status: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM8
1.3	States and territories, and capital cities: Original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2
1.4	Educational attendance (aged 15-24): Original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a
1.5	Labour Force Status by Country of Birth: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM6
	Labour Force Status by Year of arrival: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube LM4
1.6	Relationship in household: Original	6291.0.55.001 data cube FM1
		6291.0.55.001 data cube FM2
1.7	All families: family type by labour force status: Original	6105.0 spreadsheet table 1
1.8	International Comparisons	International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA database
2.1	Industry: trend	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 4
2.2	Industry division and subdivision: Original	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 6
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E05
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
2.3	Occupation major group and sub-major group: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
2.4	Industry and occupation by full-time/part-time status: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 04
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 05
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 06
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 07
2.5	Industry and occupation by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E05
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
	Occupation by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E07
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
	Hours worked in all jobs by status in employment: Original	6291.0.55.003 data cube E06
		6291.0.55.003 data cube E08
2.6	Actual hours worked: industry and occupation: Original	6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12
	Average weekly hours worked by persons at work	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 11
		6291.0.55.003 spreadsheet table 12

	Aggregate weekly hours worked	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.003 data cube E09
2.7	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9
2.8	Actual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 9
	Usual hours worked in all jobs	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 10
2.9	Full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours	6291.0.55.001 data cube EM2
2.10	Future employment expectations by job tenure	6105.0 spreadsheet table 2
2.11	Public sector employees: states and territories	Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6248.0.55.002)
2.12	Public sector employees: industry	6248.0.55.002
3.1	Long-term unemployed persons: trend	6291.0.55.001 data cube UM3
		6291.0.55.001 data cube UM2
3.2	Long-term unemployed persons: trend	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 14B
3.3	Reason for unemployment by industry and occupation of last job	6105.0 spreadsheet table 3
	Unemployed persons: reason for unemployment by occupation	6105.0 spreadsheet table 3
4.1	Labour underutilisation: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 21
	Labour Force: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 1
4.2	Labour underutilisation: seasonally adjusted	6202.0 spreadsheet table 21
	Labour Force: seasonally adjusted	6202.0 spreadsheet table 2
4.3	Labour underutilisation by states and territories: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 22
	Unemployment Rate: trend - New South Wales	6202.0 spreadsheet table 4
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Victoria	6202.0 spreadsheet table 5
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Queensland	6202.0 spreadsheet table 6
	Unemployment Rate: trend - South Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 7
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Western Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 8
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Tasmania	6202.0 spreadsheet table 9
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Northern Territory	6202.0 spreadsheet table 10
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Australian Capital Territory	6202.0 spreadsheet table 11
	Unemployment Rate: trend - Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 4
4.4	Labour underutilisation by states and territories: seasonally adjusted	6202.0 spreadsheet table 22
	Unemployment Rate by States and Territories: Original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - New South Wales	6202.0 spreadsheet table 4
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Victoria	6202.0 spreadsheet table 5
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Queensland	6202.0 spreadsheet table 6
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - South Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 7
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Western Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 8
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Tasmania	6202.0 spreadsheet table 9
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Northern Territory	Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate not published
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Australian Capital Territory	Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate not published
	Unemployment Rate: seasonally adjusted - Australia	6202.0 spreadsheet table 2
4.5	Labour underutilisation by age: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet table 21
	Unemployment Rate by Age: original	6291.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 1
	Unemployment Rate 15-24: trend	6202.0 spreadsheet
4.6	Underemployed by industry and occupation	6105.0 spreadsheet table 4
4.7	Persons not in the labour force	6291.0.55.001 data cube NM1
5.1	Wage price index	Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0)
	Wage price index: trend data	6345.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Wage price index: Australia, state and territories	6345.0 spreadsheet table 2b
	Wage price index: industry	6345.0 spreadsheet table 5b
5.2	Average weekly earnings: trend	Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0)
	Australia	6302.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Private Sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 4
	Public Sector	6302.0 spreadsheet table 7
5.3	Compensation of employees and related measures: trend	Australian National Accounts: National income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)
	Compensation of employees for household income account	5206.0 spreadsheet table 35
	GDP per hour worked	5206.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Average earnings (National accounts basis - nominal)	5206.0 spreadsheet table 20
6.1	Industrial disputes: working days lost	Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)
	Industrial disputes: working days lost ; states and territories	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3a
	Industrial disputes: working days lost; industry	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2a
6.2	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees	6321.0.55.001
	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees; States and territories	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 3b
	Industrial disputes: working days lost per 1,000 employees; Industry	6321.0.55.001 spreadsheet table 2b
7.1	Job vacancies	Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0)
	Job vacancies: Australia, states and territories	6354.0 spreadsheet table 1
	Job vacancies: private sector	6354.0 spreadsheet table 2
	Job vacancies: Public sector	6354.0 spreadsheet table 3

[Previous Page](#)

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

Australian Labour Market Statistics provides information about the latest developments in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour statistics program, highlighting new and upcoming releases of ABS labour data or changes to these series. It presents a broad level summary of key labour market measures, contains analyses of labour market issues, and resources on how to understand and interpret labour market statistics.

The electronic product takes advantage of website capabilities and is a little different from the downloadable (.pdf) version.

In addition to data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), this publication contains key labour market statistics from a range of other ABS labour surveys including Average Weekly Earnings, the Labour Price Index, Job Vacancies, and Industrial Disputes.

This publication includes a range of feature articles which are intended to assist users in understanding and interpreting the data and will also promote the range of data available from the ABS labour statistics program.

LABOUR STATISTICS CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

The concepts and definitions underpinning ABS labour statistics align closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts of Australia's labour market statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates, are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001), which is available on the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Topics @ a Glance – People – Labour – Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods].

For an explanation of terms used in this publication, refer to the Glossary.

LABOUR Topics @ a Glance

The Labour Topics @ a Glance page is a portal to all labour statistics and related information residing on the ABS website. The page contains hyperlinks to Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001); information about labour related surveys; and a help page for respondents to ABS labour related surveys. The Labour Topics @ a Glance page can be accessed at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>> [Topics @ a Glance – People – Labour].

ORIGINAL AND TREND ESTIMATES

Series in this publication include **original** and **trend** series. Special care should be taken in interpreting data for the most recent months and quarters, as some of the original and all of the trend series are subject to revision.

It is not uncommon for movements in original time series data and those provided from trend series to differ. Movements in a time series of original data may reflect several factors, including:

- longer-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements);
- short-term irregular changes;
- regular seasonal changes;
- normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns; and
- systematic holiday effects.

Trend estimates help the user to identify the underlying magnitude and direction of a time series. Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of the last three listed influences from the data, leaving only trend and short-term irregular movements. Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in some series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data.

Trend estimates are produced by using a statistical procedure based on Henderson moving averages. At each time point in a series, a trend estimate is calculated using a centred x-term Henderson moving average of the seasonally adjusted series. The moving averages are centred on the point in time at which the trend is being estimated. The number of terms used to calculate the trend varies across surveys. Generally, ABS monthly surveys use a 13-term moving average and quarterly surveys use a 7-term moving average.

Estimates for the most recent time points cannot be calculated using the centred average method as there are insufficient data to do so. Instead, alternative approaches that approximate the smoothing properties of the Henderson moving average are used. This can lead to revision in the trend estimates for the most recent time periods until sufficient data are available to calculate the trend using the centred Henderson moving average. Revisions of trend estimates will also occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal adjustment factors.

Seasonal factors are reviewed at least annually for ABS labour series, to take account of additional original data. The results of the latest reviews were used to compile the trend estimates given in this publication. For further information about the most recent reviews of seasonal factors for the labour surveys, see the following publications:

- for labour force, see Labour Force, Australia (cat.no.6202.0);
- for labour price index, see Labour Price Index, Australia (cat.no.6345.0); and
- for average weekly earnings, see Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat.no.6302.0)

The general methods used in the ABS for estimating trends are described in Information Paper: A Guide to Interpreting Time Series – Monitoring Trends (cat.no.1349.0).

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Estimates in this publication are subject to two types of error:

- sampling error – errors that occur because the data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population; and
- non-sampling error – errors that occur at any stage of a survey and can also occur in a census, e.g. incorrect responses to questions, processing errors, frame deficiencies.

For more information on these sources of error, and on measures of these types of errors, including standard errors, refer to the main publications associated with each of the data series presented in this publication (see the relevant sections later in these Explanatory Notes). More information on standard errors applying to LFS estimates is contained in Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005 (cat.no.6298.0). To assist users, a spreadsheet incorporating the revised standard error models using composite estimation is available from Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube, Oct 2009 (cat.no.6298.0.55.001).

ROUNDING

Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA

Description of the survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides extensive and timely information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 and over. The LFS is a component of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS), which includes the LFS and supplementary surveys.

Monthly Population Survey

The Monthly Population Survey (MPS) is a population survey based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and list samples of discrete Indigenous communities and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about 0.45% of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from occupants of selected dwellings by interviewers, with the first interview conducted face-to-face and subsequent interviews over the telephone. Once selected, households are included for eight consecutive months before being replaced.

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been conducted since 1960, first as a quarterly collection and then monthly from February 1978. The content of the survey has remained broadly the same since its introduction, but is regularly updated to ensure that it is the most appropriate for the provision of accurate labour force statistics.

The LFS is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001),

Supplementary surveys

A supplementary topic was included with the Labour Force Survey for the first time in November 1961, and this concept has been gradually extended so that now, a majority of the months in each year include supplementary questions on one or more topics. Results from each supplementary survey topic are released separately.

The survey methodology does not differ greatly among the supplementary surveys, and in many aspects is the same as the LFS methodology. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001).

Multi-Purpose Household Survey

The Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) was introduced in 2004–05. This survey vehicle is designed to provide statistics annually for a number of small, self contained topics, including a number of labour related topics. Data for MPHS topics are collected each month over a financial year. A list of topics covered in recent years is available from Find Out More > Related Publications. Further details about concepts and methods are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001).

Reference period

Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month, with questions relating to the week prior to the interview (the reference week).

Notes on data

From time to time, changes to survey methodology affect the time series produced. Some examples of changes to this survey are: new questions added to the LFS questionnaire in April 2001; and the introduction of telephone interviewing in 1996–97.

In February 2004 the definition of unemployed persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week, with consequent revisions to data from April 2001 to January 2004. For further details, see Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2003 (cat.no.6292.0).

In May 2007, an improved method of estimation, known as composite estimation, was introduced into the Labour Force Survey. In introducing this change the ABS revised unit record data from April 2001 to April 2007 based on the new estimation method. While estimates for periods prior to April 2001 are unrevised and were compiled using a different estimation method, no trend break was identified in the employed persons series. Also, no change was identified in the trend breaks in the unemployed persons and unemployment rate series which arose with the introduction of a redesigned survey form in April 2001. For further details, see Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007 (cat.no.6292.0).

Population benchmarks

Labour Force Survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are projections of the most recently released quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. For information on the methodology used to produce the ERP see Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly (cat.no.3101.0).

The ERP series are revised twice-yearly in the March and September quarter issues of Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly (cat.no.3101.0), released in September each year, to incorporate more up to date information available for the population components. For further details, see article in Labour Force, Australia (cat.no.6202.0) entitled: Labour Force Survey Population Benchmarks in the September 2010 issue.

Estimation method

The estimation method used in the Labour Force Survey is Composite Estimation, which was introduced in May 2007. Composite Estimation combines data collected in the previous six months with current month's data to produce the current month's estimates, thereby exploiting the high correlation between overlapping samples across months in the Labour Force Survey. The Composite Estimator combines the previous and current months' data by applying different factors according to length of time in the survey. After these factors are applied, the seven months of data are weighted to align with current month population benchmarks. For details see Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, 2007 (cat.no.6292.0).

Families series

Family relationship is not determined for all households and persons in scope of the LFS. This is due to a number of factors related to the scope and coverage of the LFS, as well as difficulties in determining family structure and characteristics. The survey questions used to determine family relationships are restricted to persons enumerated as usual residents of private dwellings. That is, the following persons are excluded:

- all persons enumerated in non-private dwellings (including hotels, motels, hospitals and other institutions); and
- members of households where any of the usual residents aged 15 years and over are:
 - Non-Australian diplomats, non-Australian diplomatic staff or non-Australian members of their household;
 - Short term overseas visitors, whose usual residence is outside of Australia and who are staying in Australia for less than 12 months; or
 - Members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia or their dependants.

From October 2008, the method of producing family estimates from the LFS included: an expanded scope to include households containing permanent members of the Australian defence forces; a wider range of families in the LFS sample contributing to the family estimates; and improving the weighting method by utilising independent population benchmarks (of persons and households), ensuring the estimates more closely reflected the Australian population. See Improvements to Family Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6224.0.55.002).

Further information and data on the LFS

LFS estimates are published monthly in Labour Force, Australia (cat.no.6202.0). A series of time series spreadsheets are released at the same time as this publication under cat.no.6202.0.55.001. More detailed estimates are released, in electronic format, one week later, under cat.no.6291.0.55.001 for monthly data, or cat.no.6291.0.55.003 for quarterly data. All electronic data can be accessed via the ABS website at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. For details on the data available in the Labour Force standard products, see Labour Force Survey Standard Products and Data Item Guide (cat. no. 6103.0). Additional data are available on request.

For further information about the range of LFS products and services, and the concepts and methodology used in the LFS, refer to Information Paper: Changes to Labour Force Survey Products (cat.no.6297.0), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001), or contact Labour Market Statistics on Canberra (02)62527206.

WAGE PRICE INDEX DATA

Description of the survey

The Labour Price Index (LPI) measures change in the price of labour in the Australian labour market, unaffected by changes in the quality or quantity of work performed, i.e. it is unaffected by changes in the composition of the labour force, hours worked, or changes in characteristics of employees (e.g. work performance). In the LPI, index numbers are compiled for a range of wage and non-wage costs. Information about the wage price indexes has been released for each quarter since September 1997.

Reference period

The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the mid-month of the quarter.

Further information

For further information about the range of products and services relating to the Wage Price Index, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to Labour Price Index, Australia (cat.no.6345.0), Labour Price Index, Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6351.0.55.001), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Labour Price Index on Perth (08)93605151.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS DATA

Description of the survey

The Survey of Average Weekly Earnings has been conducted quarterly since August 1981. Approximately 5,500 businesses contribute to the survey each quarter. The purpose of the survey is to measure average gross weekly earnings of employee jobs in Australia.

Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

Reference period

The reference period for the survey is the last pay period ending on or before the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For non-weekly payrolls, businesses are asked to provide one week's portion.

Further information

For further information about average weekly earnings statistics and the concepts and methodology used refer to Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat.no.6302.0), and Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Survey of Average Weekly Earnings on Perth (08)93605304.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES DATA

Description of the survey

The ABS has been collecting information about industrial disputes since 1913. The Industrial Disputes collection produces estimates of the number of industrial disputes (where ten or more working days are lost), employees involved, and working days lost.

The scope of the Industrial Disputes collection is restricted to employing businesses at which an industrial dispute has occurred. For this collection, industrial disputes are defined as work stoppages of ten working days or more. Ten working days are equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, e.g. 3,000 workers on strike for two hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an eight-hour day).

Effects on other establishments not directly involved in the dispute, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included in the scope of this collection.

Reference period

The collection reference period is the calendar quarter.

Further information

For further information about industrial disputes statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to the electronic publication Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat.no.6321.0.55.001), and Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001), or contact the Manager, Industrial Disputes on Perth (08)9360 5159.

JOB VACANCIES DATA

Description of the survey

The current Job Vacancies Survey has been conducted since November 1983, with the exception of between August 2008 and August 2009 when the survey was temporarily suspended. It is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 5,000 employers. The survey produces estimates of the number of job vacancies in Australia.

Reference date

The reference date for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter.

Further information

For further information about the range of products and services relating to ABS job vacancies statistics, and the concepts and methodology used, refer to Job Vacancies, Australia (cat.no.6354.0), Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat.no.6102.0.55.001), the associated time series spreadsheets available from the ABS website, or contact the Manager, Job Vacancies Survey on Perth (08)93605373.

Glossary

Glossary

Actual hours worked

The hours actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Adult employees

Average Weekly Earnings. Adult employees are those employees 21 years of age or over and those employees who, although under 21 years of age, are paid at the full adult rate for their occupation.

Aggregate monthly hours worked

Aggregate monthly hours worked measures the total number of actual hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. It differs from the actual hours worked estimates (and the usual hours worked estimates) since these refer only to the hours worked in the reference week.

Actual and usual hours worked cannot be aggregated across time to produce either quarterly or annual estimates as they relate to only a single week in the month. In contrast, aggregate monthly hours worked estimates are a true monthly measure, and may be aggregated across time to produce both quarterly and annual estimates.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15–24 years who were enrolled full-time at secondary school, high school, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Average weekly earnings

Average weekly earnings represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of number of employees.

Average weekly hours worked

The average total number of hours a group of employed persons has actually worked during the reference week, not necessarily hours paid for.

Civilian population aged 15 years and over

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Couple families

A couple family exists if any two people, both of whom must be 15 years of age or over, have formed a couple relationship. This is defined as two people usually residing in the same household who share a social, economic and emotional bond usually associated with marriage and who consider their relationship to be a marriage or marriage-like union. It is identified by the characterisation of the relationship by a respondent using terms such as 'husband', 'wife', 'spouse', 'de facto', 'partner' etc.

Dependants

All family members under 15 years, and all children aged 15–24 years attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).

Discouraged jobseekers

Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:

- considered to be too young by employers;
- considered to be too old by employers;
- lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- difficulties because of language or ethnic background;
- no jobs in their locality or line of work;
- no jobs available at all; and
- no jobs in suitable hours.

Duration of unemployment

Duration of unemployment is the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Prior to April 2001, duration of unemployment was defined in the Labour Force Survey as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.

Employed

Employed persons include all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full-time

See **full-time employed**.

Employed part-time

See **part-time employed**.

Employee

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Employer surveys. Employees are wage and salary earners who received pay for any part of the reference period.

Employee job

Wage Price Index (WPI). A job for which the occupant receives remuneration in wages, salary, payment in kind, or piece rates. All employee jobs in all employing organisations are in scope of the WPI, except the following:

- those excluded from all ABS labour employer surveys
- 'non-maintainable' jobs (i.e. jobs that are expected to be occupied for less than six months of a year)
- jobs for which wages and salaries are not determined by the Australian labour market (e.g. most employees of Community Development Employment Programs, jobs where the remuneration is set in a foreign country).

Employer

Labour Force Survey and other household surveys. A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

Employer surveys. A business with one or more employees.

Employment to population ratio

For any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

Extended labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed, plus the underemployed, plus two groups of marginally attached to the labour force:

- i. persons actively looking for work, not available to start work in the reference week, but available to start work within four weeks; and
- ii. discouraged jobseekers

as a percentage of the labour force augmented by i and ii.

For more information, see datacube 'Table 5. Extended Labour Force Underutilisation Rate' and the Technical Report 'Extended Labour Force Underutilisation Rate' in the July 2009 issue of this publication.

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will, therefore, contain more than one family.

Former workers

Unemployed persons who have previously worked for two weeks or more but not in the last two years.

Full-time educational attendance

Persons aged 15–19 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at secondary or high schools, and those aged 15–24 who, during the reference week, were enrolled full-time at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other tertiary educational institution.

Full-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed full-time are those employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Full-time employees

Employer surveys. Full-time employees are permanent, fixed term and casual employees who normally work the agreed or award hours for a full-time employee in their occupation and received pay for any part of the reference period. If agreed or award hours do not apply, employees are regarded as full-time if they ordinarily work 35 hours or more per week.

Household

A group of one or more persons in a private dwelling who consider themselves to be separate from other persons (if any) in the dwelling, and who make regular provision to take meals separately from other persons, i.e. at different times or in different rooms. Lodgers who receive accommodation but no meals are treated as separate households. Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households. A household may consist of any number of families and non-family members.

Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute is defined as a state of disagreement over an issue or group of issues between an employer and its employees, which results in employees ceasing work. Industrial disputes comprise strikes, which are a withdrawal from work by a group of employees; and lockouts, which are a refusal by an employer or group of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work.

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that perform similar sets of activities in terms of the production of goods and services. Industry is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat.no.1292.0). The industry assigned to an employed person is the industry of the organisation in which the person's main job is located. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry of their most recent job.

Job vacancy

A job vacancy is an employee job available for immediate filling on the survey reference date and for which recruitment action has been taken. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are vacancies:

- for jobs which became vacant on the survey date and were filled that same day;
- for jobs of less than one day's duration;
- to be filled by persons already hired, or by promotion or transfer of existing employees;
- to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial dispute(s);
- not available for immediate filling on the survey reference date;
- for work to be carried out by contractors;
- for which no recruitment action has been taken;
- where a person has been appointed but has not yet commenced duty;
- to be filled by staff from contract labour agencies; and
- for jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation.

Labour force

The labour force is the labour supply available for the production of economic goods and services in a given period, and is the most widely used measure of the economically active population. Persons in the labour force are classified as either employed or unemployed according to their activities during the reference period by using a specific set of priority rules.

Labour force status

A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.

Labour force underutilisation rate

The unemployed plus the underemployed, as a percentage of the labour force.

Long-term unemployed

Persons unemployed for 12 months or more. See **duration of unemployment** for details of the calculation of duration of unemployment.

Long-term unemployment rate

The number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Marginal attachment to the labour force

Persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work, and:

- were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if child care were available.

The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Not determined

Families estimates from the Labour Force Survey include families where one or more adult members have an unknown labour force status. This 'not determined' category comprises families where one or both spouses (or lone parent or family reference persons) did not fully complete the questionnaire, were away from their usual residence for six weeks or more, or were permanent members of the Australian defence forces (out of scope for the Labour Force Survey).

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not classified as employed or unemployed.

Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their main tasks to be grouped together for the purposes of classification. Occupation is classified according to the ANZSCO Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1 (cat.no.1220.0). The occupation assigned to an employed person relates to the person's main job. Unemployed persons who had worked for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the occupation of their most recent job.

One-parent family

A family consisting of a lone parent with at least one dependent or non-dependent child (regardless of age) who is also usually resident in the household.

Original series

Estimates produced directly from the survey data, before seasonal adjustment or trend estimation take place.

Other family

Related individuals residing in the same household who do not form a couple or parent-child relationship with any other person in the household and are not attached to a couple or one parent family in the household. If two brothers, for example, are living together and neither is a spouse, a lone parent or a child, then they are classified as 'other family'.

Own-account worker

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

Owner managers of incorporated enterprises

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Technically they are employees, however, they are similar in characteristics to owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises

People who work in their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a profession or trade. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account workers if they do not.

Participation rate

The labour force participation rate for any group within the population is the labour force component of that group, expressed as a percentage of the population in that group.

Part-time employed

Household surveys. Persons employed part-time are those employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Status in employment

Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Total earnings

See **weekly total earnings**.

Total hourly rates of pay index excluding bonuses

Wage Price Index. This index measures quarterly change in a weighted combination of ordinary time and overtime hourly rates of pay. See Labour Price Index, Australia (cat.no.6345.0) for more information.

Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. See Explanatory Notes for more detail.

Underemployed workers

Underemployed workers are employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

Underemployment rate

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployed looking for first full-time job

Unemployed persons looking for full-time work who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for first job

Unemployed persons who had never worked for two weeks or more.

Unemployed looking for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work, or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Unemployed looking for part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only, or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unemployment to population ratio

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

Usual hours worked

The hours usually worked per week by an employed person.

Wage and salary earners

See **employee**.

Weekly total earnings

Weekly total earnings of employees is equal to weekly ordinary time earnings plus weekly overtime earnings.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWE	average weekly earnings
EEH	Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours
ERP	estimated resident population
GDP	gross domestic product
ID	industrial disputes
ILO	International Labour Organization
JVS	Job Vacancies Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LPI	labour price index
MPHS	Multipurpose Household Survey
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
qtr	quarter
RSE	relative standard error
SEE	Survey of Employment and Earnings
WPI	wage price index

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Tables 1-4 are updated on a quarterly basis

Tables 5-7 are updated on an annual basis. All three were last update updated in the July 2010 issue of Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0)